

5-16-12 Meeting Summary ** Approved 6/27/12 **
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Ed Meyer (NMFS)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Anne Shirley (BLM)

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp Energy)
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp Energy)

Absent

Craig Kohanek (proxy to Dave Harris)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates - *None at this time*

Notice-to-Proceed Process – The USDA-FS staff is currently working on these.

Public Information Opportunities - *None at this time*

RCC Action: Review and approve the April 25, 2012 Meeting Summary – *Approved 5-16-12.*

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

The project continues to move along on schedule. Steel installation will begin in June; the mechanical work is also in progress. Most civil work is complete, but there is still quite a bit of concrete going in at the fish ladder exit. Rich scheduled site meetings in June and July at the request of Ed, to inspect the work in progress at various key times (e.g. installation of screens, etc.). The contractor is proceeding with installation of the fish return pipe; adding sections between the bridge and evaluation facility. The roof is now on the evaluation building. Since last month's RCC meeting, the stream gage station was put back into service and is up and operating on the USGS website. The flowline realignment project is complete and the Soda Springs powerhouse is now back online. Some ramping occurred in the daytime as was planned

and allowed for Rich and consultants with Land & Water Environmental Services to do surveys for stranded fish. None were found; either stranded or even present along the edges. Due to high natural inflows, there was still 1,500 CFS in the bypass reach at the end of the ramping period. The powerhouse is now back to normal operations. The SA 8.3 habitat work is set up to begin this summer. The contract was awarded to Weekly Bros. PacifiCorp is still awaiting permits from the ACOE. The local representative, Carol Franson, is coming down for a site visit on May 30. The overall schedule is still on for fish passage facility water up in late September, with staff/operational training on new facilities happening this fall. For water up and completion, the date remains November 30. The biological and hydraulic testing will start in 2013.

Aquatic Connectivity Sites (2012 Status) – The schedule remains the same; with three sites to be completed this year and the rest by 2016.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier (Status and Hydraulic Balancing)

Work is still being planned on the punchlist items, which mostly have to do with the operation of the crane for removing, cleaning, and grounding. Work will be done this summer to remove gravel in front of and within the structure. Hydraulic balancing will likely need to be postponed to spring 2013 during proper flow conditions.

Chris asked what was expected for annual maintenance as far as gravel goes. Monte replied that the self-cleaning hydraulics is expected to be better than what we have at Soda Springs. Once the gravel is graded away from in front of the structure, we do not anticipate an issue with gravel. Ed also mentioned that from the model, the hydraulics should be fine. We will clean the gravel and keep an eye on it. Monte said more will be known later, after the gravel is cleaned away from the tailrace. Our hope is for minor ongoing maintenance of gravel, to keep it away from the structure.

Fish Creek Communication Upgrade

This project is to connect the lower one-third of Fish Creek bypass reach to provide more direction line of radio communication for operation of the CSDS/diversion dam to the Toketee Control Center. The fiber optic cable has been installed and the programming and testing will be internal. After that, we'll start talking about a dump gate external test for later on this year. Mike mentioned that we may run out of water and thus, testing could be pushed to the fall or even next year.

Fish Creek Fish Screen Hydraulic Improvements

The improvements will happen this summer. Monte asked Ed's thoughts regarding the design for improvements within the fish screen gallery. Ed said there had to be a compromise to the criteria of accelerating velocity along the screen array, but the average velocity has increased which should help prevent debris accumulation on the screens. The major change is closing off the upper section of the trash rack to change the hydraulics across the screens. Chris inquired if

one of the track rack bays was being removed. No, it's just being blocked off. This fall the minimum flows at Fish Creek will go to 130 CFS, which will put significant constraints on when diverting can happen. However, water will continue to move through the area to provide for the operation of the fish return pipe and the return of fish back out to the river.

L1 Forebay Operations

Regarding the pH issue, new operations are being tested to provide for deeper and more frequent flushing to reduce residence time, which will hopefully decrease algae growth. PacifiCorp is hoping this will lower the pH and will monitor in August to verify. pH sensors will be installed at the forebay and Lemolo 1 powerhouse tailrace. There will be an outage for three weeks in July which will provide an opportunity to desiccate the existing algae and test methods of potential vegetation removal within the forebay. Removal may be planned during a longer outage in 2013 if the flushing operation doesn't lower pH adequately.

Lemolo 2 Reroute Pipe – Safety Improvement at Outlet (Leave Man-Rack Open)

The proposal is to leave the bars out of the manrack. Pam hasn't had an opportunity to discuss yet with USDA-FS internal staff. PacifiCorp is also taking some steps for safety around intake as well.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

FHS TWG

- SA 19.2 Baseline Conditions Report – Comments have been received by all four agencies (ODFW, NMFS, USFWS, and USDA-FS). Rich will confer with Stillwater Sciences and get a cost estimate for addressing comments and revising the report. The budget for this project is about spent so additional support from the SA 19.2 fund may be needed to produce the final report.
- SA 7.2 Revised Implementation and Monitoring Plan – All agencies have commented, or said they had no comments. Comments were minor and the report will be revised accordingly. The RCC agreed that this revised report was ready for submission to FERC.
- **RCC Action:** Approve the revised SA 7.2 Gravel Augmentation Implementation and Monitoring Plan. * **Approved 5-16-12** *
- SA 8.3 Soda Springs Fish Habitat Maintenance Work 2012

As reported earlier, this work has been contracted and is planned to occur during August. Permits are still expected from the ACoE.

Flume 12 Remediation Plan

The flows are still too high at this time to continue monitoring relative to the Flume 12 Plan within the Lemolo 2 bypass reach. The habitat measurements in the study reaches are scheduled for November when instream flows drop down. Based on current conditions, Rich will try to get out in the field for a rainbow trout/redds survey in late June or early July. Dave agreed with this timeframe.

Operational Updates

There is a Lemolo 1 outage scheduled for July 8-26.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

Lastly, Monte mentioned that Amy Amoroso (Cow Creek Tribe) has expressed interest in the North Umpqua project. She is interested in the implementation program and associated effects on resources downstream of the project. She may be joining some future RCC meetings.

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on June 27.

Meeting adjourned.